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FIGURES 1A through 4, discussed below, and the various embodiments used to describe the principles of the present invention in this patent document are by way of illustration only and should not be construed in any way to limit the scope of the invention. Those skilled in the art will understand that the principles of the present invention may be implemented in any suitably arranged system for protecting a computer system.

a² FIGURES 1A and 1B illustrate a high level block diagram of an advantageous embodiment of the present invention for protecting a host computer system from computer viruses and unauthorized access. In the following description, the host computer system that is to be protected is host personal computer 101. For convenience, host personal computer 101 will sometimes be referred to as HPC 101. It is understood that the present invention is not limited to use with personal computers but may be generally used to protect any and all types of computer systems.

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a³ VTS 100 comprises embedded personal computer (EPC) 105, password controller 110, restoration controller 115, mass storage integrity controller 120, data transfer switch 125, peripheral switch 130, data request port 135, mass storage device interface/multiplexer 140, network interface 145, mass storage device 150. VTS 100 also comprises keyboard port 161, mouse device port 162, video port 163, printer port 164, floppy disk port 165, compact disk port 166, peripheral switch port 167, first data switch port 168, future port 169, serial port 170, universal serial bus port 171, and

second data switch port 172. VTS 100 also comprises data transfer switch control module 194 located within HPC 101. Data transfer switch control module 194 is labelled with the letters "XFR" in FIGURE 1B.

a³ As shown in FIGURE 1B, HPC 101 comprises ports that are complementary to the above described ports of VTS 100. Specifically, HPC 101 comprises keyboard port 181, mouse device port 182, video port 183, printer port 184, floppy disk port 185, compact disk port 186, peripheral switch port 187, first data switch port 188, future port 189, serial port 190, universal serial bus port 191, second data switch port 192, and data request port 195. These ports may be connected to their counterpart ports in VTS 100 through respective connections 160.
